

NEWSLETTER

ARBORETA & BOTANIC GARDENS



prepared by the public services division

May 10, 1974

PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION

In the past, summer hours at our gardens have coincided with Daylight Saving Time. Now that we appear to be on DST more or less permanently, we will make the adjustment according to the weather and the hours of sunlight each day, which is approximately, but not exactly, the same thing. Anyway, the current closing hour for each of our gardens is 5:30pm. seven days a week. If we can get the necessary personnel, we will advance our closing hours at the Arboretum to 6:30 pm. for entering and 7:00 p.m. for exit.

As a result of the diligent efforts of tour guide David Van Ausdal, we expect to have a good supply of all of our brochures by the time of the Spring Extravaganza, May 18. In printing 10M copies of the Home Vegetable Gardening, Insecticides Around The Home, and Beneficial Insects brochures, Dave will have run in a three-month period 260,000 pieces of paper through the press in addition to newsletters, news releases, forms, calendars, schedules, and the like. Our thanks for his efforts and the professional quality of his work.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

We would like to welcome aboard Mr. Floyd Butler to our custodial crew. Floyd came to us on April 29 from the Building Services Department.

For those of you who have not heard, I would like to inform you about the impact of the Fair Labor Standards Act on all County Departments. Effective May 1, 1974 employees will not be allowed to work overtime without being paid time and half. Compensable time in lieu of payment is no longer allowed. Whatever time you had on the books prior to May 1, may be taken. Since we are not authorized at the present time to pay time and a half, overtime assignments are being withheld.

Since it is getting near vacation time, I would like to remind those of you taking two weeks or more about vacation pay advances. If during the two weeks or more that you will be

gone a payday should be due, you may request that paycheck on the payday just prior to your leaving on vacation. However, you must make such requests at least three weeks before the beginning of your vacation.

ARBORETUM DIVISION

The Baldwin Bonanza was a tremendous success, at least in part because of the thorough planning done by John Provine in conjunction with the volunteers and the cooperation of the entire staff. The Spring Extravaganza, which is scheduled for May 18 and 19, should be an equally outstanding event. Eleven garden societies will have displays and there will be fifteen lectures and demonstrations each day put on by the societies and staff members. Plant sales, horticultural question-and-answer booths, and open house at the library, research center, and greenhouses will be added highlights of this special event.

We would like to welcome Richard Barns to the staff as a Grounds Maintenance Man effective May 1. Many of you will remember Richard since he has been a custodian with us.

EDUCATION DIVISION

Summer Youth and Adult Education classes will begin the last week of June.

There will be two six-week adult classes on Monday nights at LASCA. Mr. Suzuki will be teaching intermediate and advanced bonsai and Dr. Enari will teach his popular class on edible wild plants.

A total of 500 students will be attending workshops in the Youth Education Section. Staff Education Assistants will be assisted by volunteers and college students at each of the gardens.

SOUTH COAST DIVISION

Our tram is again running, towed by a jeep on loan from Mechanical Department. With rein-

statement of the tour schedule, and staging of a number of special events, April should be another outstanding month for attendance figures.

The Palos Verdes Women's Club Tea on April 10 brought in about 700 visitors. Eric Brooks gave tours on the half hour from 11 am. to 4 pm. without a break. A special meeting of the Gardeners on April 11 featured Mrs. Shirley Wells of the Audubon Society as lecturer and guide for a field study walk. Silver Spur Garden Club staged their annual show April 20-21 and held a special meeting April 24 for a lecture on Bromeliads with guest speaker, Mrs. Alice Quiros. The South Bay Bromeliad Associates show was open to the public April 27-28.

A new group of volunteers will be helping out in the nursery propagation unit. Recruited by Mrs. Alice Quiros, the group consists of a number of airline hostesses with green thumbs.

Our thanks to Sanitation Department for clearing and leveling the site for our Administration Building.

We regret to report that Harvey Zimmerman, our Nurseryman, has had to have surgery on his left knee following an on-the-job injury. He will be out for a number of weeks. We wish him a complete and speedy recovery. Cards may be sent to his home: 17025 Pires, Cerritos 90701.

We have completed the planting of our deciduous fruit tree orchard. Apples, pears, peaches, figs, nectarines, apricots, and almonds were among the 50 trees set out.

Orioles have been sighted here in April. Birders are looking forward to spring migration which should be getting under way any day now, and will bring a great variety of birds through the garden. Quail, pheasant, hummingbirds, and mallards are now nesting, and new families should be observable soon.

DESCANSO DIVISION

The Sunday morning garden walk April 7 through the native plant section attracted over a hundred people. On Sunday afternoon, April 28, about 65 people showed up for the lecture on composting. Both walk and lecture were given by George Lewis.

The warm days and the easing of the gasoline shortage have caused the attendance to go up at Descanso, especially on weekends.

Don Graf and his family camped in Borrego

Springs State Park recently. He said that in spite of a dust storm he was able to see thousands of spring wild flowers in the area.

Ed Hargrove recently spent a few days fishing in the Salton Sea.

Juliane Foes, our newest employee, is quite energetic; she attends classes in the morning at Glendale College, runs the office here in the afternoon, water-skis on weekends, rides horses, and occasionally goes flying with a friend.

Joe Macias is doing his second round of jury duty in the L.A. Superior Court.

In the rose garden the old-fashioned and the modern hybrid teas will be blooming shortly. Descanso has several plantings of each A.A.R.S. winner since 1940; the 1974 All American Rose Society winners are very nice. There is one hybrid tea (Perfume Delight) and two Floribundas, Bon Bon, and Bahia. All are pink in color.

Don't forget the concert by the Glendale Community Symphony on the main lawn, May 26, at 3 pm.

RESEARCH DIVISION

Jack McCaskill won two trophies this spring for Pacific Coast Native Iris (Californicae group). The Aril Iris Society held their show March 30 and 31; he entered in the Pacific Coast Native Iris seedling section and won the "McCaskill Award, Best Californicae Seedling". It is a perpetual award. The Southern California Iris Society held their Iris Show April 20 and 21. Jack won the Stambach Award, a perpetual trophy, for the best Californicae Seedling entered in the show.

Lee Enari is trying to build up a good collection of economically important plant species, including many drug and medicinal plants. Recent acquisitions include Cinchona succirubra (Quinine tree), Panax quinquefolium (Ginseng), Taraxacum kok-saghyz (Russian dandelion - rubber producer), Cola nitida (Cola nut), Corchorus olitorius (Jute), Commiphora africana (Myrrh - tree wood as incense), Cinnamomum zeylanicum (Cinnamon) Elettaria cardamomum (Cardamom - spice), and others.

All department employees who would like to participate in a photography club are invited to contact Carlos Jativa in the Research Division.